

Abstract 576

TITLE: Developing a Statewide HIV/AIDS Training and Technical Support Program for Drug Treatment System

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ISSUE: The relationship between HIV transmission and substance abuse has been highly recognized and acknowledged since HIV was identified. Injection drug use remains a primary risk factor in nearly 40% of all AIDS cases in Massachusetts and nationally. The incidence and prevalence of AIDS among injection drug users has been increasing steadily. In addition, numerous behavioral research studies indicate that the use of alcohol and other drugs is a significant factor in the sexual transmission of HIV.

SETTING: This workshop will address components of a comprehensive HIV support service design and delivery across the MA substance abuse treatment system and community health center network, including statewide needs assessment/planning, coordination/collaboration, consultation/technical assistance/training, and resource/materials development and dissemination. Services provided are delivered with competencies in culture, language, gender, disabilities, sexual orientation and age.

RESULTS/LESSONS LEARNED: Substance abuse providers are in an optimal position to educate clients about HIV transmission, risk reduction, harm reduction and to provide them with support and tools of prevention. New HIV treatment developments make case finding and early medical intervention increasingly important for maintaining health and well being of HIV-infected clients and decreasing risk of transmission. Extensive experience, research data and epidemiological trends drive the development of creative interventions to reduce the risk of HIV transmission among the substance abusing population. A comprehensive approach addresses not only the needs of individuals but also their partners/families and develops affiliations/linkages between substance abuse treatment providers, HIV providers, community health centers and counseling and testing support system.

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